



City of San Marcos

630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, Texas 78666

NEWS

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For Immediate Release

Melissa Millicam, Director of Communications/ Intergovernmental Relations
512.393.8105 mmillicam@sanmarcostx.gov



Fire Station 5 opens at 100 Carlson Circle on Saturday, July 17, 2010.

(Photo by Don Anders)

Saturday, July 17 at 10 a.m.

Public Invited to Fire Station Grand Opening

The City of San Marcos will celebrate the grand opening of new Fire Station #5 at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 17, 2010, at 100 Carlson Circle. The public is invited to participate in the festivities.

The event will mark the completion of the \$5 million station, which will serve as administrative headquarters for the San Marcos Fire Department, house major apparatus and training classrooms, and serve the I-35 corridor and the northern areas of San Marcos with fire protection and emergency response.

Mayor Susan Narvaiz will preside at the dedication ceremony, which will feature uncoupling a fire hose to begin the event and a special ritual in which firefighters will push a new fire apparatus into the bay by hand.

The grand opening program will feature Interim City Manager Laurie Moyer as MC, Mayor Narvaiz, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, and the San Marcos Fire Department Color Guard.

“The new fire station represents the achievement of a dream shared by the people of San Marcos, the City of San Marcos and our Fire Department,” said Mayor Narvaiz. “The facility is located at the gateway to San Marcos and signifies our commitment to public safety for our community.”

Winners of a Fire Department coloring contest will be announced at the event, with children’s artwork displayed in the station. The Fire Safety House used in fire safety education is on site for exploration by children. In addition, the historic 1926 American La France fire truck and the 1963 fire chief’s car will be on display.

San Marcos firefighters will have a fund-raising fire boot available, inviting residents to donate for the restoration of the antique La France fire truck.

Fire Station 5 was approved by voters in a 2005 bond election following the recommendation of a Blue Ribbon Bond Committee. The City of San Marcos began construction of the 19,960 square foot facility in January 2009. The building was designed by architects Wiginton Hooker Jeffry of Plano and Austin and built by Stokes Construction of San Marcos.

The San Marcos Fire Department, led by Fire Chief Les Stephens and Assistant Chief Len Nored, contributed to the design and construction management of the project. Capital Improvement Projects Director David Healey and Senior Engineer Jennifer Shell also provided construction oversight.

“The San Marcos Fire Department is honored to have our staff participate in creating a state-of-the-art facility to serve our community,” said Fire Chief Les Stephens. “This has been a labor of love for many years and we are grateful for the ongoing support from the citizens and our City Council for this important project.”

Fire Station 5 houses fire administration, five and a half bays for fire apparatus, a training classroom, 13 bedrooms, physical fitness room, bunker gear storage, decontamination area and a maintenance room for breathing apparatus.

The facility offers many “green” features, using materials originating in Texas with recycled content, water-conserving plumbing fixtures and high efficiency HVAC systems and a rainwater recycling system. Incorporated in the building and grounds are cooler concrete paving, native landscape plants, stone veneer and cool roof colors. The acoustical ceiling tiles are made of recycled materials, as are the rubber floors used in the training rooms.

The San Marcos Fire Department is commemorating its 125th anniversary and is the oldest City department. Today the department has 60 firefighters and operates out of five stations across the City of San Marcos on 24 hour shifts. Station 1 downtown on Hutchison Street is currently closed for renovation and is scheduled to re-open in mid-August.